



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee

Forbes

One Ashburton Place

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Meeting Agenda

Unity Dinner Subcommittee Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2025, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88390600771?pwd=TUKAjnOCbEsc4yZ5NUop0bZN0cbbeN.1>

The meeting will be held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law

Attachments:

- Suggested Awards Nominations
- Updated Sponsorship Form
- Working List of Performers
- Additional Attachments TBD

1. Call to Order (2 mins)

Subcommittee Chair Moana Bentin calls the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

2. Update on Keynote Speaker (7 mins)

Additional Speakers: Who should be allowed to speak? How many?

- Lizette Sta. Maria gives the update that Secretary of the Executive Office of Economic Development Yvonne Hao is essentially confirmed to be the Unity Dinner 2025 keynote speaker. An official confirmation from her team will be sent out closer to the event date.
- Yasmin Padamsee Forbes asks how soon we can include Secretary Yvonne Hao in our publicity material. Lizette Sta. Maria will follow up.
- The Subcommittee decides that other than the keynote speaker, they are open to the potential of the Governor and/or Lieutenant Governor speaking at the event. Due to concerns about program length, no other public official or VIP will be asked to speak.

3. Update on Awards (5 mins)

- Due to a confidential concern, the Subcommittee decides to replace the Runner Up option for the Unsung Hero award category with the New England Tongan Community.
- These award nomination suggestions will be presented for a vote during the full Commission meeting on January 21, 2025.

4. Update on Sponsorships (5 mins)

- Currently, there are no sponsorships, but there are multiple leads.
- Yasmin Padamsee Forbes has updated the sponsorship form with reduced pricing.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

- Moana Bentin relays that when donating on the website, only the options for Venmo or Paypal are available. This presents a barrier to potential sponsors. Yasmin Padamsee Forbes will include a pay by credit card option.
 - At the next Commission meeting on January 21, Moana Bentin will pitch to all Commissioners, encouraging them to donate to the Unity Dinner.
5. Update on Performers (15)
- Lizette Sta. Maria presents the draft spreadsheet of performance options. Open to more suggestions.
 - Follow up with Rakashi Chand about Bhangra performance group.
 - Yasmin Padamsee Forbes to ask Korean American Citizens League for more Korean performance group recommendations.
 - Gary Yu asks about Chinese representation. Open to suggestions. However, for East Asian representation, the focus this year is primarily on Korean or Japanese as determined by analysis of past Unity Dinner performers.
6. Registration Mechanism/Ticket Prices (5 mins)
- Lizette Sta. Maria presents draft ticket price options developed by Jennifer Best in the summer of 2024.
 - Budget and ticket pricing will need to be updated according to amount of sponsorships. Yasmin Padamsee Forbes to lead on this.
 - Per Unity Dinner timeline, Eventbrite will launch February 3, 2025.
7. Additional Topics/Open Discussion (15 mins)
- Moana Bentin requests clarification on how many VIPs to be invited. Yasmin Padamsee Forbes says that last year, free tickets were offered to the Asian Caucus and various appointing authorities.
 - Moana Bentin asks if Commissioners can suggest VIPs, particularly from the Pacific Islands? Yasmin Padamsee Forbes is open to this.
 - Awards recipients will also receive free tickets. Lizette Sta. Maria to do awards outreach.

Saatvik Ahluwalia leaves at 12:44 PM.

8. Show Timeline and Clarify Actionable Next Steps (3 mins)
- Develop list of VIPs
 - Update budget
 - Add pay by credit card option to donate
 - Pitch to Commissioners at next Commission meeting January 21 asking them to donate.
 - Awardees will be voted upon at January 21 Commission meeting.

This meeting is adjourned at 12:47 PM.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

